

Fort Hamilton High School Pilot

January 18, 1962

Vol. 39, No. 4

20th ANNIVERSARY ISSUE

Enter to grow in body, mind and spirit. Depart to serve better your God, your country and your fellow man.

SCHOOL WINDS UP 20 YEARS OF EDUCATION; PRINCIPAL VERY HAPPY WITH FT. HAMILTON

It's a long way from Vienna to the principalship of Fort Hamilton High School, but circumstance, ambition and ability conjoined to bring Mr. Jon B. Leder here in February 1952.

Although born abroad, Mr. Leder has lived in this country since he was one. The seeds of his educational career were probably sown in his senior year at De Witt Clinton High School when he frequently became an informal substitute for an English teacher.

Step by Step

A position in the elementary schools led him eventually to the English Department of Roosevelt and Tilden High Schools, and then to New Utrecht, where he was chairman of the department.

Before accepting the principalship of Fort Hamilton, Mr. Leder was successively at the helm of P.S. 78, Junior High School 29, and Textile High School. "I like it very much at Hamilton," he said. "In fact, I like it so much that I expect to finish my career here."

Our principal is at present working on a temporary assignment at the Bureau of Maintenance. He left school October 11 to study the operation of the Bureau and to make recommendations to expedite repairs to schools. He will probably return early next term, perhaps February 1.

Electronics Favorite Hobby

Asked what he did in his spare time, Mr. Leder replied briskly, "Who has spare time?" Then he added, "Seriously, though, when I do have free time I do a little golfing. My favorite hobby is electronics. I have dabbled in it for many, many years. I have a well-equipped workshop and enjoy using it."

Though he speaks lightly of his skill in electronics, Mr. Leder is no mere amateur. He improved the amplifiers in the auditorium and room 126 and rebuilt the public address system.

While he sometimes wishes he had become an electronics engineer, he derives great satisfaction from the "human engineering" that is achieved at Fort Hamilton.

We Become Legal—But Not Till 1944!

Fort Hamilton officially became a full-fledged high school April 21, 1944, despite the fact that the doors had opened seven months earlier.

On that spring day the Education Department of the University of the State of New York declared us a high school and granted us "certificate No. 5608 under the seal of the University at Albany."

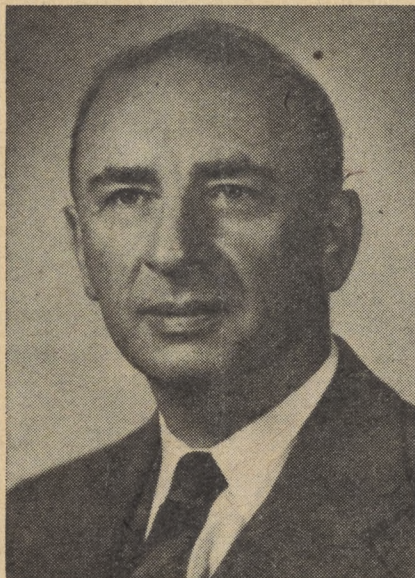
Certificates are granted by the University on the basis of equipment, teaching staff, and curricula. All the departments were found satisfactory, but the school charter was delayed because it was necessary to add to the floor and shelf space of the library.

'43 Alumni First To Tie Knot

Who were the first Hamilton graduates to tie the marital knot?

According to the February 29, 1944, issue of the *Pilot*, Mr. Chris Marinello, a senior, met Miss Marion Dropman shortly after their graduation in January.

The wedding took place Sunday, February 20, 1944, at St. Patrick's Church. The couple then left for California, where the bridegroom was stationed as a member of the Submarine Service.



Mr. Jon B. Leder

A Lovely Age

(reflections from the principal)

Fort Hamilton is twenty. What a lovely age! Old enough for traditions, yet young enough for a long future; old enough to see the children of her graduates, but young enough to have many of her original staff; old enough for treasured pictures, but young enough to be modern.

Twenty is old enough for memories—of the war, and the young men who went away; of the faculty in its maddest moments on the stage; of the flood that gave her a swimming pool for a little while; of the absent-minded principal who exploded a firecracker in school; of Mr. Quigley's transport steaming by, blowing its whistle as we dipped the flag; of dances, games, excursions and alarms. She has known sadness too; twice her halls have been the scene of sudden death.

Something Good Remains

Death has taken some of her finest teachers, too, but they live on forever in the boys and girls they taught. We can never know how many walk a little taller, think a little straighter, (Continued on Page 4, Col. 5)

We Get Swimming Pool—Temporarily!

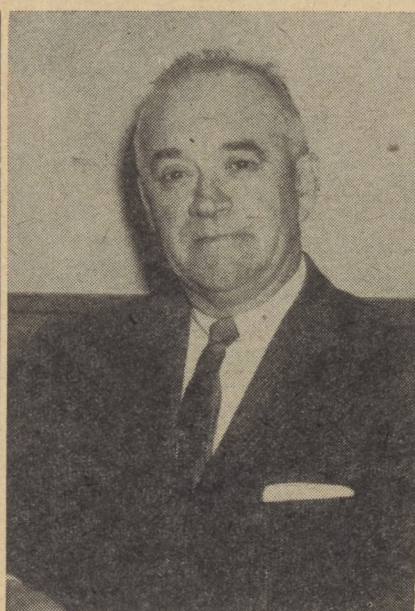
Flood warnings were issued here one day in 1951, after great quantities of rain water had poured into the basement.

On arriving at school, the student body was confronted with several fire engines and a mass of fire apparatus.

When one confused student saw the hoses pumping great streams of water out into the street, he exclaimed: "The Fire Department is crazy! They're pumping water in the wrong direction!"

The worst victim of the "flood" was the G.O. store, where rising water soaked the entire stock. The faculty adviser at the time, Mr. Eugene Corenthal, tried to make light of the situation with: "Well, I guess we'll have to have a water sale in the near future."

This was the closest that our school came to getting a swimming pool.



Mr. James L. Quigley

years later and became administrative assistant, holding this post until 1950, when he was recalled to active duty as a major in the Medical Service Corps. Mr. Quigley was then sent to

(Continued on Page 3, Col. 1)

By Lucille Clementi and Charles Saydah

Located at 83rd Street and Shore Road, on the site of the old Crescent Athletic Club, Fort Hamilton High School has overlooked the entrance to New York harbor for twenty years. On September 8, 1941, the doors of our school were opened to 2,300 boys and girls from 22 public and parochial schools in the zone.

Cost \$2,700,000

Mr. Fiorello H. LaGuardia, then mayor, helped lay the cornerstone for

Sports Develop Rapidly After Slow Start

By Lloyd Sara

The organization of athletic teams in Fort Hamilton took a slow start in its initial years. A 2-year student body (new schools generally start with freshmen and sophomores only), insufficient coaches, and an uncompleted playing field impeded our efforts toward PSAL competition.

In 1941, plans were made to organize a basketball, tennis, bowling, and track team. At this time Mr. Philip Drucker, a current member of the Boys Health Education Department, began shaping up a sixteen-man basketball team.

Diamond Not Ready

Baseball was postponed because the diamond had not been completed. It wasn't ready until 1943, when Fort Hamilton beat Brooklyn Academy 20-0 in the first game ever played on the field. One hundred and twenty enthusiasts tried out for the track team, showing that track has been a favorite sport here right from the start.

In the spring of '49 the track team took third place in the 1280-yard relay race at Madison Square Garden. George Helfenstein finished fifth in a Manhattan College meet and won a dual meet with St. Michaels, creating

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the \$2,700,000 project, later to be given its present name. We narrowly missed being christened "Barkaloo" or "Eureka," as was suggested in a "name-the-school" campaign sponsored by the late Brooklyn Eagle newspaper. Mr. Augustus Ludwig became principal thirteen years after plans for the new school had been discussed.

The tract of land originally allotted for the high school was much reduced when the Park Department decided that a playground and field area should supplement the new building.

Other Sites Considered

Shore Road at 73rd Street, and 100th Street at Fort Hamilton Parkway were considered possible locations before the present site was finally agreed upon. The structure's decorative tower and modified classic architecture have made this school a landmark for all incoming and outgoing ships passing our front door, on their way through the zone.

The three-story building covers an area of almost 6000 square feet. Originally a debate ensued over whether the structure should have four or six stories. There was even a question about whether it should be coed, and a suggestion was made to have two schools—one for boys, the other for girls. But after all the talk had subsided, the present structure and arrangement were agreed upon.

And on June 21, 1939, two years before boys and girls began to march in as students, the Board of Education gave us our name.

Acting Principal Devotes Life to School, Army

By Audrey Haddad

Physical education instructor, former chairman of the Boys Health Education Department, administrative assistant, rank of Lt. Colonel in the Medical Service Corps, and finally acting principal. The person referred to is none other than Mr. James L. Quigley.

After graduation from the Savage School for Physical Education, Mr. Quigley received a B.S. from N.Y.U. and an M.A. from Teachers College, Columbia University. While teaching health education at George Washington High School he founded the first career club in the New York City Schools.

Important Army Post

The present acting principal became chairman of the Boys Health Education Department here in 1941 with the opening of the school. In 1944 he was appointed Chief of Reconditioning at the McCormack General Hospital in Pasadena. "I supervised physical reconditioning, occupational therapy, and information and education," he said.

He returned to Fort Hamilton three

Program Trouble-Shooter Guides F.H. From Start

By Evelyn Junge

When Fort Hamilton opened its doors twenty years ago, Mr. Morton G. Stone, now administrative assistant to the principal, was one of that relatively small number of teachers known as the "charter members."

A Brooklynite from the very beginning, he graduated from Manual Training High School (later to become John Jay) and Brooklyn College. He received his M.A. in genetics from Columbia University and did further graduate work at N.Y.U.

Chairman of Program Committee

For a number of years Mr. Stone was chairman of the Program Committee. As such he was responsible for the formulation of a master program tailored to the individual programs of almost 3,500 students.

He is a pioneer in the introduction of the annual promotion plan of organization for the high school. In this system students continue with the teacher for the entire year.

The high school division has called on him a number of times to address



Mr. Morton G. Stone

groups of high school principals on this type of organization. Last year a delegation of four superintendents from Philadelphia came to study the annual promotion plan. They were re-

(Continued on Page 4, Col. 4)

Faithful Service

(an editorial)

"Enter to grow in body, mind and spirit. Depart to serve better your God, your country and your fellow man."

Although twenty years have passed since the establishment of Fort Hamilton, this noble ideal to which the school was dedicated has remained unchanged.

Ideals provide the goals toward which both teachers and students work; for a school is more than a building, more than desks, blackboards, and books. These are only the physical appurtenances for learning. It is the striving together of dedicated teachers and eager pupils toward a common goal that results in true education.

This twenty year period has seen many changes in the staff of Fort Hamilton, but the caliber of the teachers and the quality of their instruction has remained unchanged. In 1941, with war clouds on the horizon, the student body became a well knit, cohesive group, motivated by a common unifying purpose; in 1961, school spirit remains at a high level because of the binding traditions that have been developed through the years.

From its inception, Fort Hamilton has tried to inculcate in its pupils qualities of leadership and citizenship and a love of learning. By offering personal, interested guidance, the advisers have planted in students a desire to develop in "body, mind and spirit." As a result, Hamilton alumni have assumed an active rather than a passive interest in the affairs of their community, state, and nation.

What the next twenty years will hold for Fort Hamilton, only time can tell. But as an institution "of the people, by the people, and for the people," our school will unquestionably continue to render faithful service.

Student Writes His Own Prayer

God give me an open mind that I may gain knowledge and stature in preparation for the future years of manhood.

May I ever hold the schools to be the foundation of a great democracy in which all are free to think and worship as they please.

May I always look to my parents and teachers as examples I may live by, and profit from their teachings.

God help me to help myself so that I won't lean wholly on others, but instead, that I may always help others.

Richard Van Deusen, '56
Pilot, December 15, 1955

'52 Senior Girl Raises Chinchillas

Lois Nowak, a senior in Fort Hamilton High School in October 1952, had the unusual hobby of raising chinchillas. "The chinchilla is a small fur-bearing animal, about the size of a squirrel, with fine, luxurious gray-blue fur."

Lois had bought the chinchillas at \$1,200 a pair. At the time, she had five chinchillas—two pairs and a baby. Lois described the animals as being "affectionate."

Because of the extreme shortage of pelts that year, very few coats were made. At that time a chinchilla coat cost about \$25,000.

A Great Moment for Our School



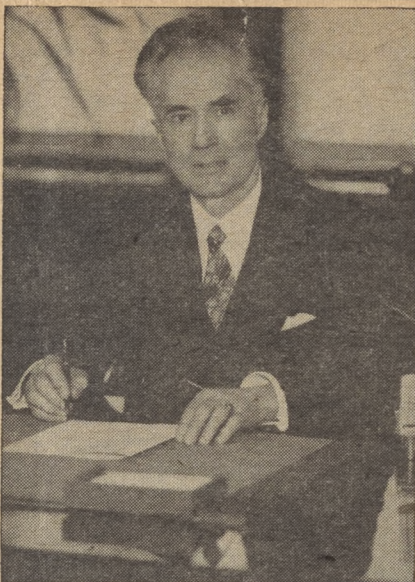
The late Mayor Fiorello H. LaGuardia helps with the cornerstone while John Cashmore, recently deceased borough president, looks on.

Mr. Ludwig Gets School Under Way

The man who organized this school and set it in motion was its first principal, Mr. Augustus Ludwig.

Formerly head of Pershing Junior High, he came here before the doors were officially opened, selected a staff of administrative assistants and chairmen, and promptly swung into action. He retired a decade later, in 1951, after having spent more than 51 years in the field of education.

Mr. Ludwig, although now past



Mr. Augustus Ludwig

eighty, does not believe that professional retirement is a time of inactivity. He is on the Board of Directors of both the Association of Retired Teachers and the Brooklyn Civic Council. He is a member of the Board of Managers of the Flatbush YMCA and is connected with other civic, philanthropic and church organizations.

Author of the now famous inscription in the lobby, Mr. Ludwig also wrote the words familiar to all graduates of Pershing Junior High: "What I am to be, I am now"

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Into the Stands

Edwin (Duke) Snider was interviewed by high school sports editors from all over the city at Ebbets Field, May 9, 1953.

The excitement of the interview was climaxed when Bill Antonello, a former Hamiltonite, then a Dodger outfielder, hit a long drive into the stands.

Former Teacher Conducts Survey Of 1957 Graduates

By Virginia Thomas

Have you ever been curious about Fort Hamilton's graduates? Have you ever wondered whether they made their mark in the world?

Miss Lilas Robertson, a former member of the Girls Health Education Department, tried to satisfy her curiosity by taking a survey of the graduates of the class of 1957.

Miss Robertson learned that two of the graduates, Lotti Colon and Irene Stober, expect to teach English in junior high school shortly. Edward Smith, a graduate of Brooklyn College with honors, plans to do graduate work toward his master's degree.

\$1500 Fellowship

Janet Amundson attended Luther College in Iowa. She has a \$1500 fellowship for further studies to obtain her master's. Now in Europe with the Luther College Board, Janet plans to teach math.

Barbara Pollack, a graduate of St. Elizabeth College in Convent Station, New Jersey, majored in science. Barbara hopes to do work in medical research, chiefly on cancer.

Some Enter Business

Several graduates attended secretarial or business schools. Edward McAvoy attended a special language school where he studied Spanish three hours a day for a year. For three years Edward has been employed by an exporting company. Jane Gillies went to Woods School for one year, has a position as a secretary, and

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Three Veterans Attend Hamilton

Three war veterans attended our school in 1953. The army was represented by Bill Staudenmaier, the Air Force by Bob Heller, and the Marines by Rocco Cortese. All were seniors.

Each had served 43 months, and among them had covered most of the United States, Germany, and the Far East, including Korea. All planned to finish high school and go on to college.

Rocco Cortese had received the Purple Heart for shrapnel wounds, the Korean Service Award, the United Nations Ribbon, and the Army Unit Citation Medal.

Both Bob Heller and Bill Staudenmaier had received the Good Conduct Medal and the Occupation Medal.

3 Publications Improve Steadily Since Inception

By Janet Yellen

An important criterion used in judging the scholastic rank of a high school is the quality of its publications. During the twenty years of this school's existence, its newspaper, the *Pilot*; its literary magazine, the *Anchor*; and its senior yearbook, the *Tower*, have maintained standards of excellence which have consistently won for them first place in the Columbia Scholastic Press Association competition.

Pilot Organized in 1941

Organized in November, 1941, the *Pilot* met with enthusiastic support when over 250 students applied for positions on its staff. During the school's early days, news of Hamilton's role in the war effort captured the headlines, such as "Students Aid U.S. in War Bond Campaign" and "Hamilton Adopts Veteran of Coventry Air Raids."

High CSPA Rating

For excellence in journalism, the *Pilot* has won twelve first place and one medalist award in Columbia Scholastic Press Association competition, and has been commended for excellence in typography and format.

Mr. Jacob C. Solovay has been adviser of the paper since 1941, except for a two-year period when he served in the Navy.

Anchor Stimulates Writing

"Fashioned as a showcase for the talents of Fort Hamilton students, the *Anchor* hopes to stimulate interest in creative writing," said Miss Helen P. Gerlach, its present adviser.

Originally published twice a year,
(Continued on Page 4, Col. 2)

Leaves School In Far Rockaway To Help Build F.H.

Every successful organization has its unsung heroes, and our school is no exception. The smooth and efficient running of this institution can be attributed in no small measure to the efforts of its capable administrative assistant, Miss Elizabeth G. Hoffman.

Coming from Far Rockaway High



Miss Elizabeth G. Hoffman

School, where she had held a similar position, Miss Hoffman helped set up the new school before it opened in 1941. She organized the teaching staff and the student body, the latter comprising pupils from five different high schools.

During the sabbatical leave of Mr. Augustus Ludwig, former principal, and for a short period after his retirement, Miss Hoffman served as acting principal.

Although now on leave, she still maintains a keen interest in Fort Hamilton and its welfare.

Alumni Notes

By Susan Hirsch

What are some of the alumni doing now—years after their graduation from the Fort? Your reporter has done a little sleuthing here and there and has come up with the following snatches of information:

Frank Olsen, June '44, is a television promotion writer at ABC. One of his classmates, Jack Applebaum, is also a promotion writer, but at NBC.

James Mullen, January '45, is Sales Promotion Manager at WCBS Radio. Helen McShane, January '45 valedictorian, is teaching at P.S. 104.

At Sperry Gyroscope

Alfred L. Turino, '45, is head of the design section of Sperry Gyroscope at their research center in California.

Fred Dexter, *Pilot* sports editor in 1945, is head of the Carlson Printing Company here in New York.

Arnold Kahn, '46, who received a fellowship in nuclear physics from the National Science Foundation, is now a physicist with the National Bureau of Standards.

Ole Knutsen, '46, is a supervising engineer with the Southern Bell Telephone and Telegraph Company.

Some in Medicine

Edward Zohman, January 1947 valedictorian; Ulisse Cucco, of the same class; and Anthony Barratta, '46, have all become physicians.

Rolf Vang, '47, is Assistant to the Chief of Medicine at Beekman Downtown Hospital.

Morton A. Wolfe (January '48), former *Pilot* circulation manager, is also employed at Beekman.

The Rev. Anthony J. Savastano, '47, was ordained in 1956 and is now assigned to the Church of St. Rocco, Glen Cove, N.Y.

Science Writer

Malvin Schechter, June '48 valedictorian, is a science writer for *Modern Medicine* magazine.

Robert T. Shirley (January '50), once very active in the Rembrandt Club, held an exhibit of his paintings a year ago at the Caravan Gallery. Some of his work is now at the Flagg Court Playhouse.

Craig A. Mehldau, '51, is attending Cornell University's medical school.

Bill Jordan, June '53, former make-up editor of the *Pilot*, is going to pursue his studies at the University of Wisconsin. He has his master's and is heading for a Ph.D. in geology.

R.N. at Long Island

Judith McPherson, June '53, is a Registered Nurse at Long Island College Hospital.

Barbara Polisenia, '54, is teaching English in an Army Dependents school in Germany. Ina Feltenstein, '55, is teaching at Boys High.

Kevin McCarthy, '56, a former *Pilot* editor, worked in a medical laboratory on a fellowship the past summer, and is now working Saturday afternoons at the Bellevue Clinic. He is aiming for an M.D.

Yes, It Happened

Jack Dempsey took over as instructor in the boys gym classes for one day.

Girls received minor letters in ping-pong in 1943.

The first G.O. president was Peter Stassa.

During World War II basic courses for military occupations were taught as regular subjects—to the girls as well as the boys.

A girl, Sigrid Hansen, was actually G.O. president in 1947.

'Old Timers' Reflect Upon 20 Years Here

By Jane Appel

One *Pilot* reporter, curious to sound out some of the charter members on their reactions after two decades at the Fort, came up with an assortment of replies. They range from the reflective to the amusing. Here are some of them.

When Mr. Henry Kamin (Biology and Gen. Science) was asked if there was anything in Fort Hamilton that he especially liked during the past twenty years, he replied, "I have particularly enjoyed teaching in the community in which I live—meeting students, graduates, and their families in the stores and on the avenues, and having the children of former pupils introduced to me. I have even had the pleasure of teaching some of the children of former pupils."

"Many Rich Memories"

The same general question put to Mr. Jacob C. Solovay (English) elicited the following: "The twenty years here have brought me many rich memories—of students, colleagues, momentous historical events, and numerous little flashing irrelevancies. Perhaps the most persistently heartwarming association has been with the *Pilot* and the wonderful boys and girls who are still near me—in actuality or in spirit."

Mr. Robert Bedell (Boys Health Education) added a bit of levity by saying, "I especially like Fort Hamilton High School because it is so close to the Dyker golf course."

Jump in Population

Naturally many changes have occurred here since 1941. Mr. Vincent Kassenbrock (Boys Health Education) was asked to mention some of the significant ones. After reminiscing a bit, he said, "In September 1941, when the school opened, there were approximately 1,000 students here. You could walk through the halls with ease. Today, with three times that number, the rush in the halls is terrific. Despite the overcrowding, the building is in good repair and the students—for the most part—get to classes on time."

Mr. Joseph Kottmann (Boys Health Education) said, in reply to this question: "The increased number of teams over the years. Ice hockey disappeared with the Brooklyn Ice Palace. We added rifle, tennis, bowling, handball and cross-country. I also believe that the school building and grounds have improved in beauty."

Hamilton Has Helped

Mrs. Concetta Bonom (Secretarial Studies), asked about some of our

(Continued on Page 4, Col. 3)

Mr. Quigley

(Continued from Page 1)

Fort Lewis, Washington, and afterwards to Landstuhl, Germany, where he was the Executive Officer of the 320th General Hospital. While in Europe, he traveled to Belgium, Holland, Switzerland, Germany, and France.

Baseball and Basketball

Always interested in sports, Mr. Quigley has participated actively in his two favorite ones—baseball and basketball. While teaching at Savage, he coached the baseball team; while at George Washington High, the quintet. At Fort Lewis he coached the medical group which won the Sixth Army Northern Division Basketball Championship.

Mr. Quigley has also been a teacher-in-charge of vacation playgrounds, a director of Clear Pool Camp, and a physical director of the Madison Square Boys Club.

Charter Members on Hamilton Faculty



Below: Miss Hennessy, Mrs. Bonom, Mrs. Juul, Mrs. McClenahan, Mrs. McHugh, Mr. Quigley, Miss Dick, Miss Higginson, Mrs. Kahn, Mrs. Hart.

Above: Mr. Cummings, Mr. Bedell, Mr. Stone, Mr. Kassenbrock, Mr. Cohen, Mr. Kottmann, Mr. Matheson, the late Mr. Shomay, Mr. Kamin, Mr. Solovay, Mr. Joltin, Mr. Morton. Absent: Mrs. Hands, Mrs. Hauptman, Miss Hoffman, Mr. Ragusa.

From the Files

According to very early issues of the *Pilot*, the following items were in great demand:

Radio teachers so that they could be turned off.

October 7, 1952

Books with built-in book reports for the convenience of students.

April 10, 1943

Elevators that will take passengers up even though they are in perfect health.

April 4, 1942

Sports History

(Continued from Page 1)

an unofficial new course record. He was labeled outstanding athlete by sports writers at the 42nd Annual Stuyvesant meet, after he had finished 16th out of 500 in another cross-country meet.

Keglers Make Their Mark

Our bowling team soon began its regular ascent to the top in PSAL division and borough championship play. Every year our team has achieved outstanding records.



Shortly after the opening of the school, soccer became a steady sport here. Under the supervision of Coach Robert Bedell, the booters

were caught in a three-way boro tie in the PSAL Brooklyn Championships, competing with Brooklyn Tech and Lafayette. All three schools had identical records. The team battled for All-City All-Star Soccer Team rank, but bowed out to a Philadelphia team.

Cindermen Speedy

In 1949 the cindermen ended their indoor season in good form. In the 1000-yard run, Jim Donovan, manager, garnered fourth place. Al Fabrizio came in sixth in a 220-yard dash.

Under the coaching of Mr. Joseph Kottmann, G.O. adviser, the cindermen won a city championship in 1958.

A year later we racked up a number of medals and placed fourth out of 75 schools in a Bronx Championship meet. Since then our varsity teams have made fine records in PSAL competition.

1947 was our best golf and ice hockey year, for then, under the

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Student Body Supports Three Victims of War

By Julie Cohn

Today, somewhere in Europe, three fine adults are probably living comparatively normal lives. Our school can be thanked for making this possible.

In 1944, '45 and '46, during the Second World War, Hamilton became the foster parents of several stricken refugee children who had been placed in foster homes or children's hospitals.

Little Nancy Cowerdy

When Nancy Anastasia Cowerdy was only a few months old, she was suffering from malnutrition, and she and her brother Kenrick were confined to a children's hospital. Thanks to our support, they recuperated.

An English Son

An English "son," Herbert Woodward, wrote us letters of a typical ten-year-old, in which he described his school, his athletic triumphs, and his anticipation of his father's leaves. He exhibited curiosity about the American way of life of his "parents."

Class of '57

(Continued from Page 2)

studies dramatics at night.

Richard Cocheo and Rodney Ward joined the Armed Services—Richard the Army, Rodney the Navy. After three years of duty, Richard registered at Columbia and plans to major in geology. Rodney is working and attending Brooklyn College at night.

John Doherty attended a technical school for a year and a half and is now with the paratroopers in Tennessee.

Wedding Bells

Among those married, Isabelle Mafrice (now Mrs. Kenneth Nankervie) is living in Bay Ridge and holds a government position in New York. Also living in Bay Ridge is Ines Testa, who attended State Teachers College for two years. She is married and has a baby boy.

Carol Kroon, now Mrs. Victor Dioguardi, has been a member of the Metropolitan Ballet Corps for the past three years. June Tatom attended Pratt Institute for two years, is married, and lives in Connecticut.

Which seems to indicate that a number of the 1957 graduates are beginning to make their mark in the world!

"My father has been to see me and is looking well and happy because I've got foster parents," he wrote. The following year we were happily informed that Herbert, fondly known as "Bertie," had won a scholarship to a training center.

A Lad From Belgium

A third war "baby" was Winand Duyckaerts of Belgium, who was thirteen at the time of adoption. Before the war, his father had managed to provide a comfortable home for the family, but with the brutal occupation of Belgium came a tragic change.

A bomb had shattered their home and the family was forced to live in the cellar. Because they had neither light nor heat, and because food and clothing were insufficient, the family was soon stricken with dysentery. It was in this poor, nervous state that Winand came under our care. His health and outlook improved and he was very grateful to his foster parents.

Mr. Ludwig

(Continued from Page 2)

becoming."

Our former principal is an "inveterate reader" of books on political, economic and social problems. Referring to the current scene, he said, "The problems we are facing today are tremendous." But he spoke in an optimistic tone.

Mr. Ludwig devotes some of his leisure time to watching TV, visiting his children and grandchildren, and talking to groups. "I just love to make speeches," he remarked with a smile.

Senior Classes Present Gifts To Alma Mater

By Janet Yellen

If a 1943 alumnus of Fort Hamilton were to revisit his alma mater, he would be pleasantly surprised by the many additions that have been made during the past twenty years. For it has become a tradition that each senior class, upon graduation, present a gift to the school.

On entering the lobby, he would notice the motto of Fort Hamilton displayed near the entrance to the auditorium: "Enter to Grow in Body, Mind and Spirit. Depart to Serve Better Your God, Your Country and Your Fellow Man." This motto was a gift of the class of June, 1949.

Cases, Bulletin Boards

He would also see trophy cases, the Scholastic Honor Roll, and bulletin boards. The cases were the gift of the class of '48; the bulletin boards, of the class of '55. He would find the auditorium improved by the addition of floodlights and risers for the chorus, band, and orchestra.

One greatly needed alteration, made by the class of 1960, was the sound-proofing of several first floor corridors to eliminate excessive noise near the offices.

A More Attractive School

To enhance the appearance of the school has been the aim of many graduating classes. In 1945, paintings and woodcarvings were presented and placed in the corridors of the building; in 1954, a patch of dogwood trees was planted on the grounds.

Although less obvious to the visitor, many other useful gifts have been made over a period of twenty years. These include television sets, an electric scoreboard for the boys gym, a portable public address system, photostat and photocopying machines, and a series of English, science and social studies films.

Practical, as well as aesthetic, the gifts presented by each graduating class are tangible evidence of the students' affection for their alma mater.

Homemade Afghans Save G.I. Lives

"Why afghans?" was the question asked by U.S. troops stationed in Nova Scotia during World War II.

The Red Cross Club, under the direction of Miss Hanna Mattson, in the winter of 1944, sent two large packages of afghans to the troops. Upon receiving them, the men laughed.

Shortly afterwards, according to the *Pilot* of April 25, 1944, the troops were bombed off the coast of Scotland. The men abandoned ship when the order was given, then huddled under the afghans in their lifeboats.

The cold was so unbearable that many of the men died. The ones who survived said they owed it to the girls who had supplied the afghans.



The Pilot

(First Place, Columbia Scholastic Press Association)
Published by the Students of
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JON B. LEDER, Principal
JAMES L. QUIGLEY, Acting Principal

Co-Editors-in-Chief Jane Appel, Vicki Halper
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Sports Lloyd Sara
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Faculty Adviser
Jacob C. Solovay

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PTA Renders Valuable Aid To Hamilton

For the past twenty years the Parent-Teachers Association has grown up with Fort Hamilton. Organized in 1941, it began with 23 members. Today, to meet the demands and needs of the expanded student body, it has many hundreds.

The purpose of the PTA was to establish a liaison between the school and the home—to bring parents and teachers together for the welfare of the students. Since its inception the PTA has not deviated from this aim.

Provides Many Services

This organization has provided many services to Fort Hamilton High School and the Bay Ridge community. Through its efforts the recreational facilities of the school have been made available to many neighborhood youth groups. In addition, the PTA presented a hi-fi phonograph to the Music Department, choir gowns to the Mixed and Girls Choruses, several shelves of beautiful books to our library, and an AM-FM radio and a professional grade tape recorder for instructional purposes. This year \$2500 has been allotted for school use.

Many years ago the PTA introduced college and career nights. This year's schedule of lectures by representatives of various institutions of higher education is in full swing. The PTA annual card parties and game nights have also become a tradition.

Current Officers

The 1961-62 officers of the organization are as follows: Mr. Carl Seagren, president; Miss Margaret Haigney, vice president; Mrs. Germano Mendizza, recording secretary; Mrs. Edwin Thompson, treasurer; Mrs. Caesar Pucci, corresponding secretary; Mr. Harry Baumeister, auditor.

Mr. Dwight Perrin, program chairman; Mrs. Frederick Dietz, publicity chairman; Mrs. Bertram J. Kane, membership chairman; Mrs. James Hands, co-membership chairman; Mrs. Harry Levine, hospitality chairman; Mrs. Harold Compton, health and safety chairman.

Sports History

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coaching of Mr. John Matheson, chairman of the Shop Department, both teams became city champs.

Throughout our sports history we have had many stars representing our school. Nick and Pete Spanakos, Golden Glove winners, participated in the 1960 Olympics. Pole vaulter John Moore and high jumper Kenny Borg broke many PSAL high school records.

Bob Gillespie, captain of last year's netmen, and Howie Silverstein were the best players in Fort Hamilton's tennis history. Kaare Rafoss was a member of the All-City All-Scholastic Soccer Team. Gerry Gavin, Bob Moran, Ron Willis, Paul Meberg, and Bob Barneck were topflight cagers, all over six feet tall.

Golfer John Raffaniello starred in many championships. Dennis Murphy, Gordon Harvey, and Bob Lento filled the baseball scoreboard with home runs and no-hitters. Richard Lipari, ace kugler, has been nominated captain of the bowling team for his third consecutive year.

In its twenty years of existence our school has established a sports record of which it can be justly proud.

We Took Over From Here



The Crescent Athletic Club that was razed to make room for our school. Some difference between then and now!

Students Return - To Give Marks, Not Get Them!

How would you like to change places with your teachers for a day? That is what former students of Fort Hamilton have done—only, for them the change is permanent.

Returning to teach in their alma mater are Miss Betsy Shack, '57, of the Social Studies Department; Mr. Roy Jacobsen, '49, of the English Department; Miss Gail Tollefsen, '57, at present in the Health Education Department; and Mr. Larry Bergstein, '54, occasionally in the Music Department.

Didn't Plan Teaching

"Although it seems strange to be a teacher in a school where I was once a pupil, I felt at home here right away," said Miss Tollefsen. Mr. Bergstein said that although he is now a member of the faculty, he maintains great respect for the teachers he had as a pupil, and is honored to be treated by them as a colleague.

Did these teachers, as students, realize that teaching would be their chosen profession? Without exception, the answer was no!

While undergraduates here, the

alumni engaged in a variety of extra-curricular activities. Miss Tollefsen was literary editor of the *Tower*, senior yearbook; Miss Shack was vice president of the G.O.; Mr. Bergstein led the Senior Dance Band.

Miss Shack graduated from Vassar with a B.A. in political science; Mr. Jacobsen majored in English at Brooklyn College and later attended N.Y.U. Law School; Miss Tollefsen received a B.S. in biology from Wagner College; and Mr. Bergstein received a B.S. in Music at Hunter. All four are now working for their master's degrees.

'Old Timers'

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achievements, replied, "The success with which so many of our graduates have met, both in institutions of higher learning and in the outside world, is a tribute to the training in citizenship, scholarship, and guidance they received here. How do we know? They've told us so."

Mr. John Matheson (Chairman, Shop Department), when asked about his "special memory," said, "My first impression of Fort Hamilton was of a receiving room crammed to the ceiling with merchandise. I had to distribute all this to several departments, with the aid of Mr. Shomay and other assistants."

"Next, of course, was the wonderful year 1947, when I happened to be in charge of the golf and ice hockey teams, both of which were city champs that year. Last, but not least, the priceless associations with so many wonderful people—students, teachers and parents."

Cold Winters—B-r-r!

Mrs. Dorothy B. McHugh (Art) said, "I shall never forget the severe winters that Fort Hamilton had when it first opened. All the women teachers had to invest in woolen suits. The rooms were so cold! Last term's winter spell was a sample of the same type of weather." She added, "I shall always remember the great amount of time, effort and talent that went into the Victory Shows."

A Dramatic Moment

Perhaps the most touching recollection came from Mr. James L. Quigley, acting principal. In 1950 he was recalled to active duty as a major in the Medical Service Corps. In describing his send-off, he said, "While standing on the bridge of the *General Callan* as it sailed down the Narrows, I could see our high school. Members of the faculty were grouped on the steps. The flag dipped three times. The captain of the ship showed my excitement by answering with three whistles. It was a dramatic moment and I cherish the memory of it."

Library, Once Empty, Has 12,060 Books

What was the library like twenty years ago? Furniture excepted, a beautiful empty room!

Part of the basic collection of books provided by the Board of Education for all new school libraries had been delivered to the building, and magazines ordered in June 1941 had begun to arrive.

"Not all the books on order (\$8,000 worth) arrived," said Mrs. Elizabeth S. McClenahan, librarian in charge since the school opened. "Even if they had come, there would have been no room for them."

Snake Expands, Frog Disappears

It was discovered in the biology laboratory that one frog was missing from a terrarium that originally had contained a female snake and eight frogs.

The two-foot-long garter snake, a native of Staten Island, was found hiding suspiciously under a leaf. There was a huge lump in her intestine!



A custodial assistant said that the snake had tried repeatedly to pin down the frog's legs.

Mrs. Sara Sulzer, biology lab assistant, had this comment to make: "The amazing

thing about it is that the frog's head is almost three times as large as the snake's. It will take at least a month for the frog to be completely digested!"

Pilot, May 12, 1955

Mr. Stone

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ferred to this school to consult Mr. Stone.

A keen and enthusiastic student of biology, Mr. Stone has imparted his zeal to thousands of students here over the years. He has received two National Science Foundation scholarships. During the summer of 1959 he did field work in Florida, and a year later in Arizona. In 1959 the Foundation also selected him as one of the two New York State representatives at the National Convention of Biology Teachers.

During World War II he served in the Army Medical Corps as a non-com in charge of the organization of medical laboratory technicians schools.

Asked whether he detected any appreciable change in the students over the years, Mr. Stone replied: "I haven't been aware of any distinct change. I like teaching here, and I am still impressed by the calibre, behavior and appearance of our boys and girls."

His hobbies include raising tropical fish, reading, and going on hikes. He is an enthusiastic camper and has tented in many parts of the country.

Supplies Slow in Coming

The staff was further hampered by the slow arrival of supplies—catalog cards, book cards, pockets, paste, and many other items. But by the middle of November—two months after the opening of the school—2,897 volumes were on the shelves.

What is the size of the library today? "Since then," explained Mrs. McClenahan, "we have processed 13,785 books of which 12,060 are now on the shelves."

"Furthermore," she said, "subscriptions to magazines have grown from a modest 44 to 136. We still subscribe to some on our original list: *Atlantic Monthly*, *Consumer Research*, *Harper's Monthly*, *National Geographic*, *Nature* (now incorporated with *Natural History*), *Saturday Review*, and others."

Library Enlarged

The Board of Regents refused to grant a charter to the school because the library was "inadequate." In 1943 the room was enlarged and extra money was appropriated to bring the book collection nearer to State standards.

"Now the library is at the bursting point," Mrs. McClenahan put in ruefully. "We are desperate for space. We have been measured for new shelves, and heaven speed the day of their arrival!"

Mrs. McClenahan and her two assistants, Mrs. Ella K. Rodemann and Mrs. Marjorie Schacker, are also waiting—somewhat impatiently—for new cork tiles on the floor, after twenty years of wear and tear.

A Lovely Age

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because part of a good and kindly teacher took root within them long ago. Surely some of Miss Farquhar, of Mrs. Gold, of Miss Scully, of Mr. Shomay lives on, not only in the mind and character of our graduates but in their hearts.

She is old enough for her sons and daughters to have distinguished themselves in the world, and she takes pardonable pride in seeing their names in high places. Above all pride in their achievement, she feels rewarded that they indeed entered to grow in body, mind and spirit, and departed to serve better their God, their country and their fellow men.

Onward!

